

COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
(Advisory Committee to State Health Division)
MINUTES

Thursday, April 17, 2003, at 10:00 a.m.

*Bureau of Licensure and Certification
Conference Room
1550 East College Parkway, Suite 158
Carson City, NV*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

John Magruder, Chairman (via telephone)
Fergus Laughridge
Steve Tognoli
Pat Irwin
Herb Brady
Stephanie Beck

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED

John Fildes, MD
Rory Chetelat
Kathy Kopka
Wayne Hardwick, MD
Sarah Sisson
Vincent Pirozzi

HEALTH DIVISION STAFF PRESENT

Pam Graham, Chief, Bureau of Licensure and Certification
Randy Munn, Deputy Attorney General
Richard Swinney, EMS Education Coordinator
Richard Fenlason, EMS Representative II
John Lambert, EMS Representative II
Connie McFadden, Administrative Assistant II

1. Roll Call/Approval of minutes from January 16, 2003, meeting John Magruder

John Magruder called the meeting to order and roll was called at 10:10 a.m.
The committee members were advised that since a quorum was not present no voting could take place on action items. All action items will be carried forward to the next meeting.

2. Health Division Report Alex Haartz, Deputy Administrator
Health Division

Mr. Haartz was unable to attend the meeting. The Health Division Report was postponed until the next meeting.

3. EMS Report Fergus Laughridge

Fergus Laughridge provided the committee with a report of the activities of the State EMS Program. Mr. Laughridge advised the committee that the EMS program has filled the vacant Administrative Assistant I position in the Carson City office. Maggie Trepanier started on March 12, 2003. The EMS Representative II position in the Tonopah office (Region 4) is still vacant. The program has received a few qualified applicants. Mr. Laughridge hopes to begin the interview process with those applicants in May, 2003. In the interim, EMS staff currently in place will continue to take on extra duties to insure services and providers in Region 4 are adequately served.

Mr. Laughridge advised the committee that the Statewide Protocol that was approved by the committee at the January 16, 2003, meeting were presented to the State Board of Health in March. The Board approved the protocol as presented and it has been forward to all permitted services and

their medical directors for implementation. The EMS Program has received very positive feedback in reference to the protocol. The protocol will be posted on the EMS Web page.

Mr. Laughridge advised the committee that the EMS Program has purchased a Certification and Licensure program from Clark County. This program will replace the program currently in place for issuing and tracking EMS certifications and licenses. EMS staff is currently working to get this new program working.

Mr. Laughridge advised the committee that the EMS Program will start issuing EMS Training Grants bi-annually. The deadline for submitting applications will be December 1 and June 1 of each year.

The EMS Web page has been updated and EMS staff are working to keep it up to date.

The Nevada Electronic EMS Data System (NEEDS) is moving forward. MedMedia has developed a program that will link data collected via other vendor software into the WEBCUR database. The program is available through Bob Heath, EMS Representative in Elko.

The EMS Program has started sending the fingerprint cards provided with the Ambulance Attendant License Applications to Nevada Highway Patrol for processing. There have been a few background check results that reveal a discrepancy with the information provided on the Ambulance Attendant License Application. When a situation like that occurs, Mr. Laughridge is writing to the applicant requesting clarification. If sufficient clarification is not received, further action will be necessary.

The Nevada State Health Division has hired a State Health Officer. Bradford Lee, MD, MBA, will start August 4, 2003.

4. Legislative Update

Fergus Laughridge

Fergus Laughridge advised the committee that Senate Bill 455, *'Requiring licensure of emergency medical technicians by Committee on Emergency Medical Services'* has been indefinitely postponed due to lack of support.

Legislative budgets will begin closing on May 2, 2003.

Stephanie Beck spoke to the committee regarding AB 441, *'Enacts provisions relating to ensuring security of State of Nevada and its residents with respect to acts of terrorism and related emergencies'*. This bill could have some impact on the EMS system. It would require, in counties with a population of over 100,000, the placement of 'Automatic External Defibrillators' (AED) in county buildings.

5. Trauma/EMS Systems Grant

Fergus Laughridge

Fergus Laughridge spoke to the committee regarding Trauma/EMS Systems Grant. The Trauma Institute in Clark County applied for this grant, with the State EMS Program as a partner. The goal of the grant is to convene a stakeholders group to address trauma/EMS in the state. The first meeting will be May 16, 2003, in Las Vegas. Mr. Laughridge requested that a committee member attend this meeting to provide addition insight into EMS in Nevada. John Magruder volunteered to attend on behalf of the committee.

6. State EMS Conference

Fergus Laughridge

Fergus Laughridge advised the committee that the State EMS Conference will be held May 2-4, 2003. Some communities have advised that they have not received conference brochure. The State EMS Office is working with the School of Medicine to fax out registration forms to areas that have not yet received brochures.

7. Standardized Equipment List Fergus Laughridge
Review of proposed list of required equipment for ambulance and agency vehicle

Fergus Laughridge spoke to the committee regarding the need for a list of required equipment for ambulances and fire-fighting agency vehicles. The list of specific items was removed from NAC 450B. during the recent revision. Having the list of required items separate from the regulations makes it easier to maintain an updated list as national standards change. The equipment list will be tied directly to the vehicle inspection forms used by the State EMS Representatives. Mr. Laughridge requested that committee members review the proposed list of equipment and provide the State EMS Office with feedback within two weeks.

8. Storey County Fire Dept. – Request for Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) Service Fergus Laughridge

Fergus Laughridge advised the committee that no action could be taken on this item due to lack of a quorum. John Magruder stated that the proposal includes a two-week dysrhythmia course, followed by a three-day ACLS course through Carson Tahoe Hospital. Mr. Magruder stated that it was a good proposal. Steve Tognoli stated that it was an interesting proposal and he felt if it worked in Storey County he would be interested in a similar program for Mason Valley. Mr. Tognoli asked if it would fit with the new intermediate curriculum. Mr. Magruder stated that the new intermediate curriculum was so time consuming as to be unworkable in most areas of the state. Mr. Laughridge stated that in order to make an informed analysis of the proposal it would be necessary for the medical director for Storey County Fire Department to submit a protocol for implementation of the proposal for review. Mr. Magruder requested that a sub-committee meet to review the Storey County Fire Department's proposal and the modules developed by State EMS for transitioning to the new intermediate curriculum.

9. State Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Plan Fergus Laughridge

Fergus Laughridge requested that the committee review the sample MCI plans submitted by Mason Valley Fire Protection District. Mr. Laughridge stated that there is a need for a structured, statewide plan for responding to a mass casualty incident. It is important that the resources of individual services be taken into account. There is a need to look at a large-scale plan, but also address small-scale incidents. An incident that is fairly commonplace in a large urban area would be viewed as unusual in rural areas of the state. Steve Tognoli stated that national wildland services in the state have been called in to assist in national disasters. These groups have developed incident command systems that could be modeled. Fergus Laughridge stated he is working as a part of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) on developing a plan for responding to EMS issues during fire emergencies. He agreed with Mr. Tognoli that this plan could be looked at as a model for a statewide MCI plan. John Magruder asked if this was similar to what the Trauma/EMS Systems Grant was looking at. Mr. Laughridge stated that the Trauma/EMS Systems Grant had not discussed addressing an MCI plan. He stated that it would be a good suggestion to make at the May 16, 2003, Trauma/EMS Systems Grant meeting. Stephanie Beck stated that the need for an MCI plan ties in to several programs in the state (i.e.: HRSA Grant and the CDC Grant). Ms. Beck stated that she had a copy of the Washoe County MCI plan that could be made available to committee members for review if needed.

John Magruder and Fergus Laughridge will address the need for a statewide MCI plan at the Trauma/EMS Systems Grant meeting on May 16, 2003.

10. Public Comments and Discussion - (Discussion only. Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled on an agenda at a later meeting for action).

Pam Graham asked how individual services are dealing with the threat of smallpox. Ms. Graham stated that Health Division staff have been given the option of being vaccinated against smallpox in order to be available as part of a smallpox response team in the event of a smallpox event. John Magruder stated that Humboldt County Hospital has a plan in place and several providers have volunteered for vaccination. Mr. Magruder stated that Humboldt County Hospital is planning a smallpox disaster drill to test their plan. Fergus Laughridge stated that the State EMS Program would be interested in being involved in their drill.

11. Next Meeting – Agenda

Next meeting will be held July 17, 2003, at 10:00 am in Carson City.

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.